

TIDINGS



Christmas 2022
Newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA

Merry Christmas Everyone,
I have delighted in celebrating Advent with you this year. I know historically advent is a time of repentance and solemnity, but this year has been a joyous expression of us preparing the way of the Lord even while we express our repentance. The wreath-lighting-families have been so sweet, and John GN has been a great re-addition to children's liturgy.

I have really enjoyed the energy you all bring to each Sunday and events during the week.



Art by Lucinda Naylor

December 18th is Advent 4

We have the bell choir at 10am! Join me after church for a brief adult education class on praying lectionary and using the prayer book.

Saturday, Christmas Eve

December 24th

3pm pageant and communion
5pm festive family communion
7pm full choir with communion

Sunday, Christmas Day

December 25th

10am worship service only,
not live streamed
with carols and communion

Sunday, New Year's Day

January 1st

10am worship service only,
not live streamed

Merry Christmas, see you soon,
Todd

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

What are your traditions of light during this Advent and Christmas season? Do you light candles, set up a tree, turn on a tiny tea lights or take a moment to look at the stars or the moon on a still night?

As we approach Christmas, I am astounded by the power of night. We light Christmas lights, light up trees and watch lights glow against the darkness; still, I notice the darkness. Glad of the rain, I recently gave thanks to God for the blessing of the longed-for waters from heaven, but found the darkness that came with it, hard to navigate and find my bearings. The darkness felt heavy, and I could barely move through it. I watched for lights, discovering that I truly navigate toward the light

Darkness and night, however it comes, is hard. Sometimes it is the darkness of night, sometimes it is the darkness of sorrow and loss, sometimes it is the loneliness of illness or pain. Darkness comes. Perhaps that is why Luke tells of the Angels who brought light and song to the shepherds outside of the city of Bethlehem. We don't know what the shepherds were considering in the darkness, or what was going on in their lives, or who they loved. They watched out for predators, protecting their sheep, hoping that like David, they could fend off dangers in their lives as shepherds. The light the Angel brought "shone around them" and filled them with fear—an impossible light of glory that filled the darkness. To the shepherds (and to us) the words the angel spoke were first, "Do not be afraid." When we are in darkness the light shocks us and confuses us—even our eyes take time to adjust. Love too brings light, sometimes not in the ways we expect.

Our story of the Christ Child coming at the time of the longest night of year in the Northern Hemisphere is part of our story—a great light and a great joy. This Advent, as we quickly move toward Christmas, I invite you to acknowledge the darkness and the disappointments of this Christmas—and the deep wounds of many people from the isolation caused by the Pandemic time—and let a new light shine. Some families welcomed the birth of child, others lost someone they loved, or cannot find their way back into old groups of friends and family. "God with us" comes into this time too. Christ has been with us all along and comes not to bring happiness, but the peace that passes all understanding; it is Faith, Hope, Joy, and Love that guide us to compassion, shared tears, laughter, and happiness. This Light that comes into the world transforms the darkness because the darkness can no longer separate us from God or each other.

Light a candle or turn on a light. God is coming into our world again this Christmas. We are reminded that this is good news and a great Joy for us and all people... We cannot forget the darkness, but we are invited to live in the Light.

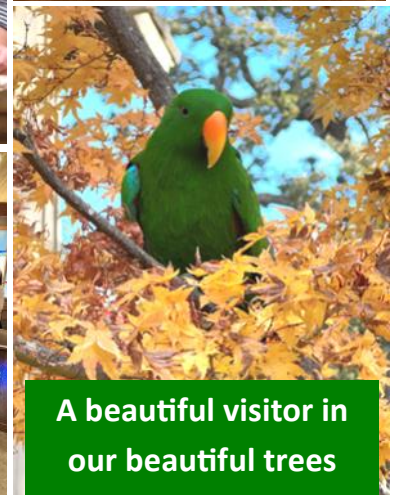
Christ, be my light in the darkness that I may also shine for someone else and for the world you Love.

Pastor Susan +

HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS



St. Nicholas Cookie Bakers - Sara B, Mae W, Carleen C, Marie-Claire M, Emily M, Renie P, Joann O



A beautiful visitor in our beautiful trees



The refrigerator team



Advent candle lighting



A special visit from St. Nicholas



**Christmas Food Boxes
for Monument Crisis
Center**





Christmas Selfies!

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES AT ST. TIMOTHY'S - 2022

St Timothy's - Thank you on behalf of the clients and staff of Monument Crisis Center.

As of today, we have delivered 167 boxes for the Monument Crisis Center (MCC) Holiday Food Box drive with 8 more to be delivered this week. **A TOTAL OF 175 BOXES!** We exceeded our 2021 total of 161 boxes!

2022 marked the return of two St. Timothy's traditions.

- On Sunday, November 13, the attendees at the 4:00 service filled 400 plastic bags with rice and beans. Those bags were added to each "St Timothy's" box.
- On Friday, December 2, the Alamo Safeway delivered enough food to fill 100 boxes. The picture on the left shows the crew who on Saturday, December 3 filled those boxes with the rental truck (thank you John G) filled with those boxes and others. The crew was amazing, filling the boxes, adding the bagged rice and beans and loading the truck in less than 2 hours! Thank you to John W for working with Safeway on this effort. **Please tell Safeway thank you the next time you shop at that store.**

Tania and Wally delivered the boxes to Monument Crisis Center. I got to see many of those boxes go out the door on food carts with happy MCC clients.

Thank you also to the Sunday volunteers (particularly Helen C) who took sign-ups and checks and explained our options for supporting this effort. Having 2 options for participating and 3 ways to pay gets complicated. Thank you to Kimberly and Bev M for their patience and support.



Sally P Outreach Liaison for Monument Crisis Center

WINTER NIGHTS FAMILY SHELTER

January 23 – February 6, 2023

*"Our clients may be homeless, but they are not without hope.
Thank you for hosting the Winter Nights Family Shelter."*

Dan Swander, Board President - <https://cccwinternights.org/>

Family Shelter: Did you know that St. Timothy's has hosted Winter Nights families since 2005! With the help of St. Timothy's and Beth Chaim volunteers, we will open the Parish Hall to become a Winter Nights Shelter serving approximately 30 guests (families with children.)

How Can You Help: We will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner; laundry services; showers; assistance with homework; space for play and relaxation. Transportation, counseling, and other services are provided by Winter Nights Shelter program.

To learn more about the various volunteer opportunities and to sign up online go to:

St. Timothy's website under the [Outreach Menu](#)
Signups will also be available on Sundays

All Staff, Guests and Onsite Volunteers must provide proof of Covid vaccination

Contact Joann O at joannmarieoliver@gmail.com.



WARM WINTER DRIVE

for Loaves and Fishes & Trinity Center



Help keep our brothers and sisters warm this winter.

DECEMBER 11th 2022 to JANUARY 15th 2023

Thank you for anything you can give.

- * Socks: wool or wool blend, and/or cotton socks
- * Knit caps, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens
- * Warm pants or jeans: casual, new or used in good condition
- * Plastic ponchos and emergency thermal blankets for rain kits
(see ponchos and thermal blankets on Amazon)
- * Small toiletries

Collection boxes will be in these locations on Sundays:

1. Parish Hall entry outside or under the Outreach Bulletin Board
2. Grace House entry until 11:00, and during weekday business hours

Two volunteers needed to help with the drive.

Info: Leslie F, lesliefirth@comcast.net, Steve M, stevemason200@gmail.com

Nora H, noramhudson52@gmail.com

LITURGICAL ART FOR THE SEASONS

Christmas 2022 - THE SUN/STAR

On Christmas Eve, as you walk into the sanctuary you will see a large gold hanging over the altar. It was originally made in 2003 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Saint Timothy's. There were gold banners everywhere, but this huge one was the focal point on the wall above the stage in the Parish Hall.



In trying to come up with something new to artistically celebrate this Christmas, this was a light bulb moment. Last year I used the table runners from the anniversary celebration as side panels in the church. This year you see a new embellished version of the giant main banner hanging from the ceiling.

The big center is a sun or a star, whichever your eyes envision, that represents the great light of Christ and the impact it has had on Christians everywhere. The borders are made up of a strong symbol of the “X”. Kathy W. used this letter from the Book of Signs by Rudolf Koch, which describes the “X” as a “gift” or a sign of simple activity and what we actively do as a community, which is so relevant at Saint Timothy's.

We wish you a blessed Christmas season full of beautiful symbols.

Leslie F and Kathy W

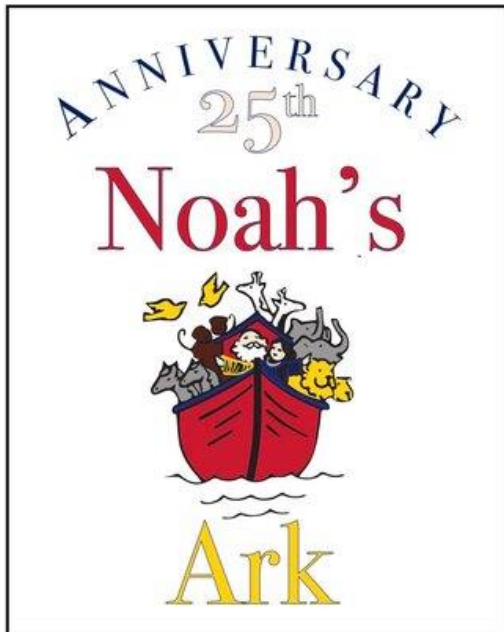
ENJOY A CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST!

We have made a playlist for Christmas carols, especially for children and teens, to hear and learn traditional tunes and words - some contemporary and some not so contemporary voices. If you have Spotify, you can just click the link [HERE](#) to download. If you do not have Spotify, add the app and you can get it for free, although it will have ads. We hope you will sing along, teaching a new generation carols some of us learned as children.



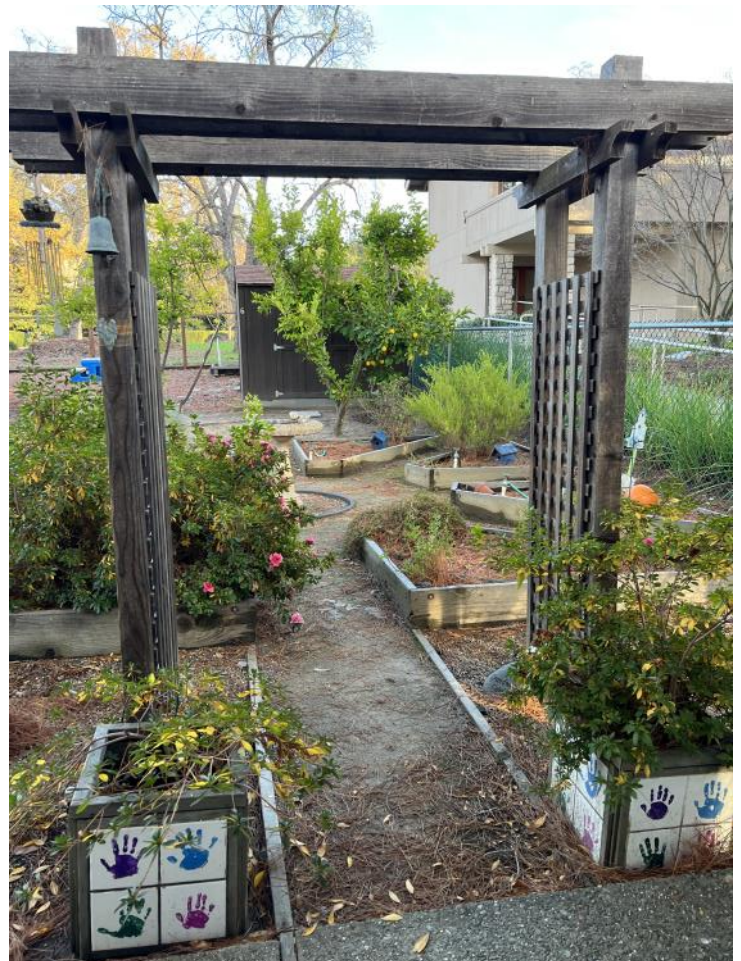
St Tim's Christmas Playlist

NOAH'S ARK REGISTRATION



2023-2024
New Student
Parish Member Registration
January 9-13, 2023

Please contact the preschool office to obtain an enrollment form or download from the church website, www.sainttimothysdanville.org, Noah's Ark link. Mail completed form to Noah's Ark Preschool, 1550 Diablo Road, Danville, CA 94526 or email to noah-sark@sainttimothysdanville.org. Enrollment window closes Friday, January 14. If you would like to do a tour, please call the preschool at 925 362-8565 or send an email.



VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2022

The vestry met on Wednesday, November 16, at 6:30 pm in Overby Conference Room of Grace House

MOTIONS:

- The amount of money budgeted to replace the **Parish Hall kitchen** refrigerator was increased to \$8000 to cover the cost of disposing of the old refrigerator and any modifications necessary to the kitchen to accommodate the new refrigerator.
- The vestry approved the expenditure of up to \$40,000 from church funds to replace the heating system in the **Noah's Ark pre-school building with an HVAC system** that will heat and cool the classrooms. Noah's Ark is contributing to this expenditure from their resources.
- The **minutes** of the October meeting, the treasurer's **report**, the rector's report and the several submitted vestry commission reports were approved as submitted.

OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- The **2023 budget** was discussed by the Treasurer, Dick F. The preliminary 2023 budget is expected to be voted on at the December 2022 vestry meeting and finalized at the January 2023 vestry meeting.
- The status of the church maintenance reserve funds was discussed by the Treasurer, Dick F given the upcoming expenditures to replace the roof of the Parish Hall, the refrigerator in the Parish Hall kitchen and the heating and cooling system in the preschool.
- **Parish Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, February 6.
- The rector and the **vestry** members whose terms end at the upcoming Annual Meeting are working on candidates for vestry to be elected at that meeting. Retiring members are Jacque C, Scott M and Rayne D.
- At the Annual Meeting on February 6, the parish will elect **delegates and alternates** to the Diocesan convention and Deanery. These delegates will elect the next Bishop of California

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on **Sunday, December 18, 2022** at 11:45 am in the Overby Conference Room of Grace House. The minutes of the vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office after they are approved by the Vestry.

Submitted by *Sally P*, Vestry Clerk

CONTACT US

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